

PARTNERPLAN

Gary Brough - Malawi February 2019



Resource and Mobilisation & Communications Manager
CCAP Synod of Livingstonia, Church & Society Programme
PO Box 112, Mzuzu, Malawi.
gbrough@churchofscotland.org.uk

Dear friends,

This week marks one month in Malawi together, as a family. Thank you for your continued prayers, letters, cards and emails. They have been a great encouragement to us as we continue to settle in here.

When I last wrote I had been in Malawi for a month to start work and make preparations for the family's arrival. I returned home for a busy three weeks of Christmas celebrations, family gatherings, farewells and, of course, packing!

That all seems a distant memory now. As does losing our passports and staying 3 nights at Heathrow until they showed up and we could continue our journey! Our luggage arrived with us and we made it to Mzuzu on the 9th of January.



I have been straight back to work and the honeymoon period is over. 4am departures for meetings in Lilongwe, application deadlines coming all too quickly. Just a few weeks ago I was praying that I'd find my place and make a positive contribution because I was anxious that I had too much spare time. Those prayers have changed now!

Most recently I've been part of the Church and Society team working with an alliance of civil society organisations to tackle serious and organised corruption in Malawi. Some estimates suggest as much as 35% of the country's budget is lost to corruption. With a general election looming now is a perfect time to take action and hold the presidential aspirants to account. We're hoping to see some key cases brought to court to show those involved in corruption that there are consequences.

The Church and Society Programme is also about to begin a 9-year project that aims to improve the lives of children and young people in rural villages by ensuring they have a voice in community decision making. There's a lot to do in preparation, including an initial survey of the project areas

121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN
T: +44 (0)131 225 5722 E: world@churchofscotland.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SCO11353

PARTNER PLAN

so we can track the success of the project. I hope to join the survey team and be able to share more about this in the months to come.

It's already feeling like home here, even though we're awaiting some of our belongings that are following us. The cases are (almost) all unpacked and stored away, there are pictures on the walls and best of all there are the sounds of happy children!

Eilidh is enjoying her new school. Our plans to drive her to school for the first few weeks were quickly quashed with the prospect of getting the school bus. School starts at 8.30 and the journey is around 45mins in total so it's an early start for the family. It has been a lot for her to take in, but on the whole she's adapted very well. We are proud and thankful. She loves the new house and getting to know the people who help us look after it. Most of all she loves the garden and the many lizards that visit us. We were finishing our breakfast when she appeared at the kitchen door with a baby chameleon!

Morven seems to be taking it all in her stride, well, crawl. The floors in the house are kept with a red polish, so she is regularly caught red-handed and red-kneed. We only hope she'll settle into a new Malawian sleeping pattern. She's quite the novelty when she comes with us to the shops or market in the baby carrier, but on the whole is happy to repay the interest with a smile.



Jacqueline has had her hands full settling the girls in and making our house a home. She is mastering the shops and markets of Mzuzu. Each day has a mission, like buying a watering can. It's a big change from being a pensions consultant in Glasgow city centre. You can read a recent blog from her at www.broughsinmalawi.com where she reflects on what God might have in store for her here.

We've been visiting local churches, trying to find a church family while we're here. Also meeting some of the other people God has brought to serve in Malawi. We'd appreciate your prayers for this area in particular.

We've had two surprises at the house (notable ones, anyway) since arriving together. One pleasant, one not so much. Let's deal with the un-pleasantries quickly – an infestation of termites throughout the house meant spraying some toxic deterrents and dispatching termites by the shovel full. Nice!



The better surprise was returning to find that Felix, who helps look after our house and garden had dug over the empty half of our plot ready for planting. He's taken us to the market to buy seeds and we eagerly await maize, sweet potatoes, 'Irish' potatoes, pumpkins, beans, onions, tomatoes, lettuce...the list goes on. If successful it's far more than we'll need but the land was empty and seeds cheap, so we plan to share our crops with Felix, Kettie and Amos who help us at the house and with those in need of help through a local church.

Thanks for your friendship, prayers and partnership in this work.

Every blessing
Gary, Jacqueline, Eilidh and Morven

gbrough@churchofscotland.org.uk www.broughsinmalawi.com

121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN
T: +44 (0)131 225 5722 E: world@churchofscotland.org.uk
Scottish Charity Number: SCO11353

PARTNERPLAN

Prayer points

Please give thanks for...

- a good welcome to Malawi and for new friendships and working relationships.
- a positive start at school for Eilidh, but also pray that residual nerves would soon be over.

Please pray for...

- continued strength and patience as we settle into life here.
- wisdom and balance as work gets busier, so that I take on the right projects and stay healthy!
- patience and direction for Jacqueline as she explores what God has planned for her during our time here.